

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Cancel)**

2-4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim ~~1~~29, wherein a thin material section is formed in said ~~one of said first and second coupling part~~[[s]] between said ~~outer radial groove~~radially-extending recess and said ~~axially directed groove of said safety unit~~.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said thin material section is elastically resilient.

7. **(Cancel)**

8. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim ~~1~~29, including a pressure medium filling nipple which extends radially out from the safety unit and is positioned in connection with said first and second coupling parts and its collar.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 8, including a device which is fixed in relation to said collar, ~~which~~ coacts with said filling nipple such that a small relative movement between said first coupling part and said second coupling part ~~and said movement will~~

cause the filling nipple to shear for a rapid evacuation of said

~~pressure~~pressurized fluid.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim ~~12~~9, including a first ball bearing ring placed ~~at the bottom of the safety unit groove for coaction between said safety unit and said~~located between an end of said expandable hollow body and said axial groove.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 10, including a second ball bearing ring placed ~~adjacent to~~at the opening of said ~~safety unit~~axial groove for coaction between the safety ~~unit~~expandable hollow body and said axial groove.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim ~~12~~9, wherein said ~~generally axially directed~~axial groove has a conical cross-sectional shape with a widest part facing towards an adjacent part.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said ~~part and its section~~expandable hollow body has a corresponding conical shape.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said ~~generally axially directed~~axial groove and said ~~corresponding sections of said expandable hollow body~~ have a stepped cross-sectional shapes, with a widest part facing towards an adjacent part.

15. **(Cancel)**

16. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim ~~15~~30, wherein said first coupling part and said second coupling part are mutually adapted to include mutually overlapping and coordinated cylindrical subsections on ~~a respective side of an axially directed~~sides of said axial groove.

17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said edges are related peripherally to said first coupling part, and wherein said groove is formed peripherally in said second coupling part.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said subsection is adapted for torque transmission via axially orientated and cylindrical outer sections.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein a length of said outer sections and a normal pressure dependent on the chosen expansion of the expandable ~~subpart~~hollow body are adapted for a torque transfer of between 10 and 30% of ~~the~~ total torque transferred between said first and second coupling parts.

21. **(Previously Presented )** The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the chosen torque transfer is adapted to between 15 and 25%.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the ~~generally axially directed~~axial groove has a length of more than 50% of the length of said expandable ~~subpart~~hollow body.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said length of said axial groove is ~~adapted to be~~ less than 80% of the axial length of said expandable ~~subpart~~hollow body.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said overlapping subsections have ~~essentially the same~~equal radial thicknesses.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim ~~15~~30, wherein with regard to the overlapping subsections, the outer subsection has a greater thickness than a thickness of the inner subsection.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim ~~15~~30, wherein the first coupling part is formed to function as a locking means against expansion of the free end portions of the legs forming said groove in the second coupling part.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the legs forming said groove have ~~essentially the same~~equal material thicknesses.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein a radius difference between the mutually opposing cylindrical outer parts of the groove is smaller or essentially equal to a total radial thickness of said free end portions or legs.

29. **(New)** A safety coupling apparatus which comprises:

a first annular coupling part for torque attachment to an end of a first rotatable shaft,

a second annular coupling part for attachment to an end of a second rotatable shaft which is coaxial with the first rotatable shaft,

said second coupling part defining an axial groove which has an open end facing the first coupling part, a radially outwardly-extending collar located radially outwardly of the axial groove, and a radially outwardly-extending flange which is spaced from the collar to define a radially inwardly-extending recess therebetween, and

said first coupling part defining an expandable hollow body which axially extends through said open end and into said axial groove of said second coupling part, said hollow body including a cavity which subdivides said hollow body into inner and outer cylindrical sections and which can

be (1) filled with pressurized fluid to expand the inner and outer cylindrical sections relative to one another and cause external surfaces thereof to contact adjacent surfaces of said axial groove and thereby prevent relative rotation of the first and second coupling parts, or (2) emptied of pressurized fluid to contract the inner and outer cylindrical sections relative to one another and enable free rotation of the first and second coupling parts relative to the one another.

30. **(New)** A safety coupling apparatus which comprises:

a first annular coupling part for attachment to an end of a first rotatable shaft,

a second annular coupling part for attachment to an end of a second rotatable shaft which is coaxial with the first rotatable shaft,

said second coupling part defining an axial groove which has an open end facing the first coupling part, said axial groove providing said second coupling part with inner and outer legs, and

said first coupling part defining an expandable hollow body which axially extends into said axial groove of said second coupling part, said hollow body including a cavity which subdivides said hollow body into inner and outer cylindrical sections which can be (1) filled with pressurized fluid to expand the inner and outer cylindrical sections relative to one another and cause external surfaces thereof to contact

adjacent surfaces of said axial groove and thereby prevent relative rotation of the first and second coupling parts, or (2) emptied of pressurized fluid to contract the inner and outer cylindrical sections relative to one another and enable free rotation of the first and second coupling parts relative to the one another, and locking means which engage said inner and outer legs of said second coupling part to prevent divergence thereof.